ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data storage array employing block verification information to invoke initialization procedures. In one embodiment, a data storage subsystem includes a plurality of storage devices configured in an array and a storage controller coupled to the storage devices. The storage controller is configured to store data in the form of stripes where each stripe includes a plurality of data blocks stored across the plurality of storage devices. Each of the data blocks is associated with block verification information. Upon certain write operations, the storage controller is configured to initialize a given stripe in response to detecting a mismatch in the block verification information in at least one data block of the given stripe. In one particular implementation, the block verification contained in each of the data blocks includes a logical block address and/or a cyclic redundancy code.